

Stacey Parker

From: Stacey Parker
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:16 PM
Subject: PRESS RELEASE 9/25/15 - Norman Human Rights Commission to Host 6th Inclusive Community Discussion Focusing on Domestic Violence

PRESS RELEASE



City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

For Immediate Release: September 25, 2015

Contact: Kay Ham, Chair, Human Rights Commission, 321-6928, kay.ham@ou.edu

Norman Human Rights Commission to Host 6th Inclusive Community Discussion Focusing on Domestic Violence

Is Norman an inclusive community? Do all of our citizens feel respected and represented? Do survivors of domestic violence feel safe and supported in our community?

The City of Norman's Human Rights Commission ("HRC") will host an Inclusive Community Discussion ("ICD") regarding domestic violence on Thursday, October 1, 2015. Citizens of Norman are invited to meet and talk about issues faced by survivors of domestic violence as well as their friends, family, and other support networks. Open to the public, the community discussion will take place at 6 p.m. in the Norman Public Library's Lowry Room located at 225 North Webster Avenue.

During the ICD, participants will have the opportunity to respond to questions regarding the issue of domestic violence and how the City and other community resources could better serve survivors and their friends, family, and supporting agencies. Participants will also have the opportunity to provide additional feedback or voice any other concerns related to this topic in small, moderated groups. The HRC will then compile the feedback and prepare an Inclusive Community Report and Action Plan to the City Council advising of its findings and any recommendations for change.

Representatives from support agencies will also attend the ICD to participate in the discussion of these important issues and to provide information to citizens. The City Council has proclaimed the month of October, 2015, as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Norman.

"Domestic violence is, unfortunately, a fact of life for too many individuals and families in every community. The ICD will provide an opportunity for interested citizens to come together to learn more about this issue and to discuss issues of concern to survivors, their families, and the community as a whole," said Kay Ham, HRC

Chair. “Norman is not only striving to become a more inclusive community; it is also striving to become a safer community for everyone.”

The City of Norman prides itself on building an inclusive community for all of its citizens. In 2008, the City Council adopted a resolution to participate in the National League of Cities’ Partnership for Working toward Inclusive Communities, reaffirming the City’s commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of the community, pledging active efforts to seek to achieve that goal, and urging all citizens to join together to support this effort. In furtherance of those goals, the HRC hosts these ICDs to gather information from the community on ways that the City can better serve citizens and build an inclusive community.

“The goal of each of these conversations is to provide a safe and respectful place for people to discuss how we as a community can encourage the participation and contributions of all our citizens to make Norman a strong and inclusive place to live, work, and raise families. A central goal is to identify those areas in which we can improve, so together we can take the necessary steps to make Norman a more welcoming community,” said Mayor Cindy Rosenthal.

For more information or to indicate that you plan to attend, please call the City of Norman at 405-217-7700.

###